

KEAUHOU HOLUA SLIDE

East of Hawaii 18, Keanhou vicinity

This is Hawaii's largest and best-preserved *holua* (sled run). A dangerous pastime restricted to chiefs, Hawaiian-style sledding was accomplished by tiding sleds down a rock track covered with earth and made slippery with wet grass. This steep slide, almost 4,000 feet long, perhaps longer originally, served as the site of contests that probably took place in connection with the annual religious festival, the Olakahiki. The contests have been described as the "Olympic games" of the Hawaiian people.